

Valiant Carrier Survives Japanese Suicide Blasting

SEATTLE, June 28 (UP)—Two Japanese suicide planes on the morning of May 11 almost converted the U. S. S. Bunker Hill into a flaming tomb off Okinawa for Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher, whose flagship she was.

But the hard-hitting and hard-to-kill commander of task force 58 escaped—without a scratch or blister. He escaped, and the Bunker Hill survived, but many members of Mitscher's staff and hundreds of the big ship's crew did not.

After a six-hour ordeal of blasting bombs, exploding ammunition, and blazing gasoline, the carrier counted 656 casualties, including 373 killed, 19 missing, and 264 wounded.

But thanks to her crew's heroism and to a daring maneuver under enemy noses, the 27,500-ton Bunker Hill lived to join the Franklin, her Essex class sister, and the mighty Saratoga in the proud company of U. S. carriers which refused to sink.

Because she will fight again, the Bunker Hill's story may now be told. "Out of nowhere," as the survivors told it, came two suicide planes which crashed with their 500-pound bombs into the carrier's decks.

Admiral Has Close Call

Lives were snuffed out in a space of seconds a few feet from where the doughty, weather-beaten, 58-year-old admiral was standing.

According to Commodore Arleigh A. Burke, his chief of staff, three officers and 11 men of Mitscher's staff were killed and 20 were wounded or overcome by smoke.

Every man on the port side of the flag bridge outside the "flag plot" where he stood was killed. But he survived to transfer his flag to another craft and carry on.

Thus far in this war, Mitscher has been bombed off two flagships. The name of the other one may not now be revealed.

The Bunker Hill, her decks and island and gun galleries a shambles, is being repaired at the Puget Sound navy yard, Bremerton, Wash., where the Saratoga recently was made whole again.

The Saratoga suffered greatly when seven enemy planes scored hits on her off Iwo Jima. But only the Franklin, under repair at the Brooklyn (N. Y.) navy yard, has taken more punishment than the Bunker Hill and survived.

Few U. S. naval craft of any kind have as fine a war record as the Bunker Hill. Since her arrival in the Pacific in the fall of 1943, she has sunk 162,000 tons of enemy shipping and shot down 475 Japanese planes. In addition she has probably sunk 253,975 tons of enemy vessels and damaged 454,075 tons.

In 58 consecutive days and nights with task force 58 before she was hit, her planes had struck at Iwo Jima, Tokyo, the Inland sea, Kyushu, and Okinawa. From March 14 to the day her career was interrupted, the Bunker Hill shot down 169 Japanese planes.

But in a space of 30 seconds on the morning of May 11, two Japanese suicide planes got through, catching 34 of the Bunker Hill's crew ready to take off, this transformed the mighty ship into a hell of fire and explosions which riddled her decks and bulkheads and blasted her sides.

Many Planes Destroyed

Of the carrier's planes only 10 that were in the air survived. Seventy were reduced to molten puddles.

In the six hours that followed the two suicide hits, Mitscher and his surviving staff members were removed by breeches-buoy to the destroyer English while the Bunker Hill's still-living officers and men braved death to fight fires, jettison ammunition and gasoline, and rescue the wounded and trapped.

So many erstwhile ordinary human beings were transformed into heroes that the ship's skipper, Capt. George A. Seitz of Coronado, Calif., has recommended 280 of his crew for awards, including three navy crosses.

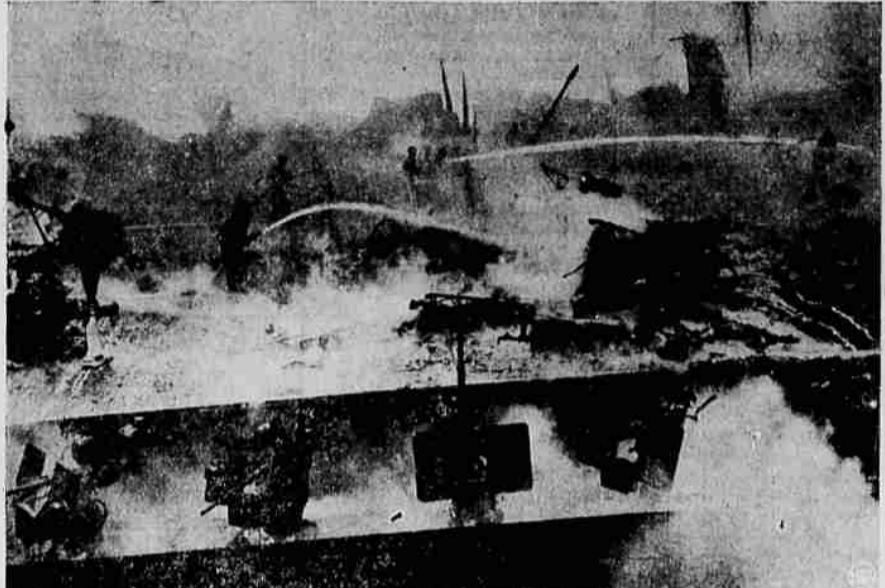
"There were so many acts of outstanding heroism," he said, "that it would be impossible to praise any one over another."

And of the men who died at their posts to keep the boilers going and the pressure in the fire mains, he added:

"They died as only brave men can."

Helping the Bunker Hill in her need were the cruiser Wilkesbarre and the destroyers English, Stembel and Charles S. Sperry. The Wilkesbarre pushed her bow against the carrier's starboard quarter and kept her hoses aboard.

See VALIANT . . . Page 5



SYMBOL OF AMERICAN VALOR—Neither flaming gasoline from the tanks of burning planes nor the explosions of bombs and rockets daunted the valiant crew of the USS Bunker Hill, when the carrier was set ablaze by two Japanese suicide planes off Okinawa May 11. A mass of charred, twisted wreckage, the gallant ship now is being repaired and will again take to sea to avenge herself on the enemy. Additional pictures of the USS Bunker Hill will be found on page 5.

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

ESTABLISHED 1896 LA GRANDE, OREGON THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 28, 1945 FIVE CENTS

Jap Seaports Blasted

4 Cities Smashed By B-29s

GUAM, Friday, June 29 (UP)—A giant sky fleet of almost 500 Superfortresses showered more than 3,000 tons of fire bombs on three major Japanese seaports and a huge army training center in a pre-dawn multiple attack today.

The B-29s attacked Sasebo, one of Japan's most important naval bases on the northwestern coast of Kyushu island; Moji, large shipping center at the northern tip of Kyushu facing Shimoda; and Onoda, on the southeastern Kyushu coast; and Okayama, site of an enemy army training base.

Major Gen. Curtis E. Lemay's 21st bomber command Superfortresses flew in four separate formations and dropped their jellied-gasoline incendiaries in pre-dawn darkness.

Today's raid, the 85th on Japan and the 12th this month, brought to approximately 4,500 the total number of B-29s that have assaulted the enemy homeland this month.

Sasebo was hit before, early in the B-29 campaign. China-based Superfortresses struck at Sasebo July 7, 1944, blasting dockyards, drydocks, repair bases, arsenal and moorings capable of handling most of Nippon's battered navy.

Today's raid was the first fire See FOUR WAR . . . Page 7



NEW SECRETARY?—James F. Byrnes, former war mobilization director, who is reported in Washington to be President Truman's choice to succeed Edward Stettinius as secretary of state.

Byrnes Believed Slated to Head State Department

WASHINGTON, June 28 (UP)—It was established through White House intimates today that James F. Byrnes of South Carolina will be named the nation's new secretary of state next week.

He will succeed 44-year-old Edward R. Stettinius, jr., a protégé of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Truman disclosed late yesterday that he had accepted Stettinius' resignation and appointed him top American representative on the United Nations world security organization.

The president described Stettinius' new job as the biggest post in the gift of the government. When the big five and 23 other United Nations ratify the charter which was completed this week at San Francisco the outgoing secretary of state will sit for the United States on the powerful world security council. At the same time he will head the American delegation to the world assembly.

Mr. Truman said he would name the new secretary of state Monday or Tuesday. It will be a man not now in the government, he added. Byrnes left the government shortly before President Truman's inauguration.

See BYRNES . . . Page 7

E Bond Sales In County Are \$34,302 From Objective

Small Purchases Urged to Meet 7th Loan Quota

Confronted with the prospect of a failure to meet the 7th war loan quota set for Union county, W. C. Perkins, war finance committee chairman, today appealed to every resident of the county to invest every available dollar in E bonds before the end of the week.

Perkins reported that sales this morning were \$34,302 short of the E bond quota of \$741,100, and he called attention to the fact that the 7th war loan campaign will end officially at the close of business Saturday evening. This figure includes \$75,000 expected from payroll savings purchases.

"Purchases of bonds of small denominations by employed persons will put the drive over the top," he said, "and it is upon these buyers that the federal treasury department is counting to do the job. The treasury department is seeking to obtain the widest possible distribution of bonds of this war loan, thereby giving everyone the opportunity to take a personal part in winning the war against Japan."

"We have been advised that bonds purchased any time until July 7 will be credited to this campaign, therefore the committee urges that every employed person buy E bonds to the limit with money from paychecks received prior to that date."

He reported sales of E bonds yesterday aggregated \$21,899.25, making the total for the campaign \$630,988.25, and bringing the total of all types of securities sold during the drive to \$919,399.25.

Reclamation Experts Urge New Sources of City and Farm Water

Urgent need for new water supplies for both domestic and industrial requirements of the city of La Grande, and to provide adequately for irrigation are seen by representatives of the United States reclamation bureau who were in the city yesterday conferring with George Cochran, one of the leaders in the irrigation movement in the Grande Ronde valley.

Hugh Blunk of Boise, regional information officer of the reclamation service, Wayne Adams, settlement specialist from Washington, D. C., and G. W. Lienweaver, operations and maintenance director of the bureau, were in the area in connection with adjustment of existing government contracts with water users, and stopped in La Grande to discuss the Grande Ronde project.

They told Cochran more activity is needed locally to bring the proposed Grande Ronde river project before the bureau officials in Washington, if it is to be incorporated in the bureau's program for post-war construction.

It was their opinion that existing water supplies are far below current requirements, and they said it is evident the city cannot expand industrially until an adequate supply of water is provided. Additionally, they said there is insufficient water to take care of agricultural expansion.

They recommended that proponents of the Grande Ronde project step up their activity to bring the proposal more forcefully to the attention of both officials, water users and the public generally.

Extension Service Aide Resigns To Take College Post

The resignation of Julianne Wise as Union county home demonstration agent and appointment of Miss Doris McWhorter as her successor were announced today by the extension service.

Miss McWhorter has been serving as food assistant in Douglas county, and has a background of several years of 4-H club work. She is a graduate of Oregon State college in the class of 1943, and received her master's degree at Cornell university. She is a member of Omicron Nu and Phi Kappa Phi.

She arrived in La Grande today with William Teutch, director of extension service. They will remain here tomorrow after which she will return to Douglas county to complete her work. She will return to La Grande July 23 to assume her new duties.

Miss Wise has been appointed assistant professor of household administration at Oregon State college, where she will teach home management and functional housing and will have home management hours supervision.

Miss Wise has been in Union county for two years, during which she has led the home economics extension program with 13 units, and from 20 to 40 home economics clubs.

She plans to spend two months at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis preparing for her new work and will go to Corvallis September 15.

Miss Wise was graduated from the state college in 1941, and received her master's degree there. She was instructor in home management at West Virginia university prior to coming to Union county. She is a member of Omicron Nu, and locally has been active in Delta Kappa Gamma the Soroptimist club, YWCA and other groups.

Rotarians Hear Reclamation Aide At Meeting Here

G. W. Lienweaver, director of operations and maintenance of the bureau of reclamation, Washington, D. C., was guest speaker at the Rotary club luncheon held yesterday noon at the Stein cafe, talking on irrigation and reclamation problems.

Other guests were Wayne Adams, settlement specialist, bureau of reclamation, and H. C. Blonke, information officer of the bureau, Rev. Logan Pruitt, new pastor of the First Methodist church, and Henry Labbe of Portland.

A musical program was presented by summer school students. Participating were Dick Johnston, Duane Hamlin, Robert Quinn and Charles Brackett, who formed a brass quartet; Marjorie Gerards, flute soloist; and Franklin Seward, cornet soloist.

U. S. Occupation of Italy To Cease By End of Year

WASHINGTON, June 28 (UP)—U. S. occupation of Italy will be terminated by the end of the year except for some small forces, Gen. Joseph T. McNarney declared today.

The commander of U. S. forces in the Mediterranean, back in Washington for a brief visit, said also that Gen. Mark W. Clark will head U. S. occupation forces in Austria, with headquarters at Vienna.

The occupational forces in Austria will consist of two of three divisions. They will be selected from troops already in central Europe rather than from Clark's Italian forces.

In Italy, McNarney said, the only U. S. troops remaining next year will be small service units, about 5,000 air force personnel and perhaps a division of occupational troops in the Venice-Giulia area.

The only forces from the Mediterranean theater to engage in Austrian occupation will be Clark's headquarters and the headquarters of the second army corps now commanded by Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes. The divisions will come from European theater personnel. Headquarters of the second corps will be at Salzburg, Austria.

American forces in the Mediterranean theater when the war ended included the 34th, 85th, 88th, 91st and 92nd infantry divisions, the first armored division and the 10th mountain division.

Increase Foreseen In Unemployment

WASHINGTON, June 28 (UP)—The war manpower commission predicted today that 1,800,000 people will be unemployed by July 1, 1946.

Actually, about 7,700,000 people will lose their jobs or be discharged from the armed forces during the next 12 months—but 6,300,000 of them will be re-employed in an expanding civilian economy, WMC said.

By Jan. 1, 1946, WMC said, unemployment will rise from the general wartime level of 700,000 to 1,300,000. The additional unemployment of 500,000 will follow after that.

In a forecast which approximated an earlier estimate by the war production board, manpower chief Paul V. McNutt pointed out that while unemployment increases in some areas there will continue to be a critical manpower shortage in others.

Suicide Corps Is Formed By Japs to Battle Invaders

GUAM, June 28 (UP)—Japan set up a separate defense command for Tokyo today and revealed that tens of thousands of special suicide weapons were being prepared to ward off an American invasion of the home islands.

South of Japan, American troops landed unopposed on six small islands in the northern Marianas in search of emergency "ditching" spots for bombers damaged in the air war over Japan.

The troops returned to their base after thoroughly reconnoitering the islands, which form a 340-mile-long series of stepping stones extending from Saipan to within 1,100 miles of Japan.

Only one shot was fired in the six landings. That was a pistol shot that killed a Japanese who refused to surrender. Twenty-four other Japanese copra company or shipwreck survivors, were removed from the islands.

Supplies and food were left behind for the approximately 290 native Japanese civilians who remained on the various islands.

Baseball Results By United Press

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Washington	2 6 2
Detroit	5 9 0
Wolf, Ullrich (8) and Ferrell; Newhouse and Richards.	
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Cincinnati	6 10 6
Boston	7 10 2
Dass, Liebner (8) and Unsworth; Tobin and Mast.	
Chicago	11 15 1
Brocklyn	8 11 2
Pasqua; Signer (7) and Livingston; Pfund, Rudolph, Seats (7), King (8) and Feacock.	
St. Louis	6 12 4
Philadelphia	1 6 1
Burkhardt and O'Dea; Lee, Coffman (9) and Mancuso, Spindel (8).	

Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a.m.

Maximum 73

Minimum 43

Forecast: Partly cloudy and warmer tonight and Friday.

Connally Urges Senate to Approve Security Charter

WASHINGTON, June 28 (UP)—The senate received an impassioned plea today to speed ratification of the United Nations security charter as a spur to its acceptance by the rest of the world.

Chairman Tom Connally, D. Tex., of the senate foreign relations committee, a delegate to the San Francisco conference which drafted the charter, opened one of the most momentous debates in U. S. history with a report on the success of his mission.

Bowman Fate to Be in Hands of Jury Tomorrow

Taking of testimony in the trial of Albert Forrest Bowman on a charge of murdering his father at the latter's North Powder district ranch on April 22, came to a close yesterday in the circuit court and arguments of counsel advanced to a point where it is expected the case will go to the jury tomorrow morning.

With the conclusion of arguments Judge R. J. Green will give his instructions to the jurors and the fate of the accused slayer will be in their hands.

Under the indictment, in which he is accused of murder, the supreme penalty is possible, and although the prosecution did not develop that possibility too strongly during the questioning of witnesses, it was indicated it would be demanded in the final arguments, as during the questioning of prospective jurors the spokesman's attitude on capital punishment was made an important factor.

The defense has built the self-defense motive, and sought to prove that the victim of the fatal fight was of a belligerent and pugnacious attitude and often threatened various members of his family with bodily harm. The state introduced numerous witnesses in an effort to counteract this testimony and show that he was a peaceful and industrious man.

Oleo, Canned Fish Ration Values to Go Up Sunday

WASHINGTON, June 28 (UP)—Citizens will get five per cent more meat in July than in June, the office of price administration disclosed today.

But during the new July 1-23 rationing period they must pay more points for margarine and canned fish.

OPA raised margarine from 12 to 14 points per pound, and raised canned fish, currently worth from four to nine points, by two and three points.

Most meats, butter and canned foods remain unchanged, as do loaf, shortening, and oils which were increased from 10 to 12 points a pound June 17.

OPA added one and two points on seven fat pork cuts but in spite of the estimated five per cent increase in meat supply held points on other meats at June levels to assist in distributing meat to shortage areas.

The agency lowered hard cheeses such as cheddar and blue by four points. All changes are effective Sunday.

Wind Damage Heavy In Whitman Forest

BAKER, Ore., June 28 (UP)—Whitman forest supervisor Charles D. Simpson, predicted today that it would take a week to clean up damage to forest roads caused by a wind storm June 21.

Sweeping through most of Baker county, the storm created a jam of hundreds of evergreens at the mouth of east Eagle canyon, caused some hail damage, and interrupted telephone service and damaged high-power lines around Unity.

Surplus Trucks to Aid Wheat Harvest

PORTLAND, June 28 (UP)—Six Oregon counties will share in the use of 172 trucks released by the surplus property board to aid movement of wheat in Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana, it was revealed today by Senator Wayne L. Morse.